

**Olympia office:**

432 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504-0600

Phone:

360-786-7996

E-mail:

kirby.steve@leg.wa.gov

Web site:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/kirby/>

**Toll-free Legislative
Hotline:**

1-800-562-6000

**TDD (for hearing-
impaired):**

1-800-365-9993

Committees:

Insurance, Financial
Services & Consumer
Protection — Chairman
Judiciary



Representative Steve Kirby

29th District

Winter 2007

Dear Neighbor:

Greetings once again from the planet Olympia! As we finish the first several weeks of session, I think it's a good time to review some of the main items on our agenda this year.

As chairman of the House Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection Committee, I'll be working on legislation to protect consumers from being ripped off by predatory lenders and insurance companies. I also sit on the House Judiciary Committee, which covers a wide variety of issues ranging from animal rights, to gun control, to judicial reform, to family law.

Education is at the top of the to-do list for legislative action this year. We'll strive to achieve smaller classes by getting more teachers into our public-school classrooms, and we will work at expanding access to colleges and universities. Also, I'll try to talk some sense into my colleagues about the use of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (the WASL). I'm all for accountability, but when you give a kid a test in which he or she can get the problem right and still miss the question, well, there's something wrong with that test if you ask me.

Health care is another issue that you can be certain will receive a lot of attention. We need to work hard at helping more people, especially children and senior citizens, receive basic and affordable health-care insurance. Toward that goal, I believe we can do a better job helping businesses that want to — but can't yet afford to — provide coverage for their employees. And we should "strongly encourage" big companies that can well afford it to do the same.

Economic development is an issue you'll hear quite a bit about this year. We need to adopt policies to create more living-wage jobs, and we need to encourage emerging industries and entrepreneurial citizens and businesses to locate here. We should eliminate corporate welfare and tax breaks for the rich. Instead, we should look at streamlining business-permitting and licensing, and providing tax-relief options for small businesses that need and deserve them. That's quite a balancing act, but I think we can do it.

Well, that ought to keep me busy! Thank you for your time today. And remember: I always welcome your comments.

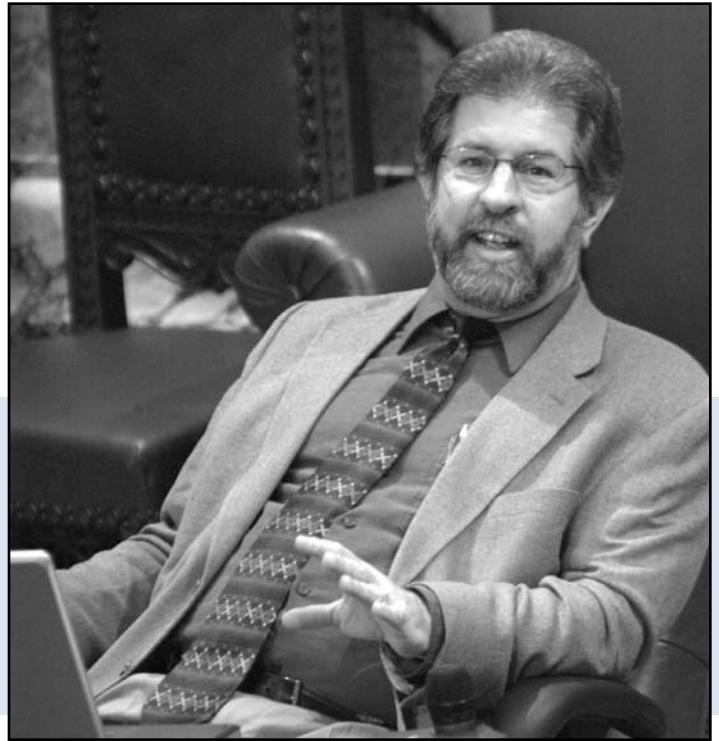
Stay tuned,

Steve Kirby

State Representative
29th District

"... I'll try to talk some sense into my colleagues about the use of the WASL. I'm all for accountability, but ... there's something wrong with that test if you ask me."

Representative
Steve Kirby
29th District



Representative Steve Kirby
432 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504-0600

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OLYMPIA WA
PERMIT NO 92